



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate Chamber - Room 1127
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SENATOR TOM APODACA
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Chairman Kevin Martin
445 12th Street SW
Room #8B-201
Washington, DC 20544

Mr. Chairman:

As our nation advances technologically and economically, individuals, schools and businesses rely more and more on web-based communication. Unfortunately, a digital divide has emerged and we must bridge this divide separating many of my constituents and many Americans.

The Internet has become a fundamental part of American life, providing an enormous resource for American's to learn, work, and conduct business. Children should not be denied learning opportunities offered by the Internet because parents and teachers do not have the expertise needed to filter inappropriate material. Further, no child should fall behind because an affordable, fast and safe Internet option is not available.

Similarly, small and independent businesses should be provided the same affordable, fast and safe Internet options to encourage e-commerce, online marketing, and innovation, therefore boosting America's economy and keeping it strong and competitive.

With such a divide already among us, we must act quickly to bridge the divide and provide all Americans the opportunity to learn, work and conduct business by offering a fast, free, family-friendly wireless broadband internet service.

Sincerely,

Senator Tom Apodaca

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMERCE
EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION
FINANCE
JUDICIARY II
OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS FOR ECONOMIC
GROWTH IN NC (ONE NC)
RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & MILITARY AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LOTTERY BILL
SELECT COMM. ON THE NC STATE EMPLOYEES'
DISABILITY PLAN



CC: Commissioner Copps*
Commissioner Adelstein*
Commissioner Tate*
Commissioner McDowell*
FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch*
Kathy Seidel, Acting Chief, Wireless Bureau
U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole
U.S. Senator Richard Burr
U.S. Representative Charles Taylor